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BY R. T. VAN HORN.

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CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF OHIO.

We, the people of the State of Ohio, grateful to Almighty God for our freedom, to secure its blessings and promote our common welfare, do establish this Constitution.

ARTICLE I. BILL OF RIGHTS.

SECTION 1. All men are, by nature, free and independent, and have certain inalienable rights, among which are those of enjoying and defending life and liberty, acquiring, possessing, and protecting property, and seeking and obtaining happiness and safety.

Sec. 2. All political power is inherent in the people. Government is instituted for their equal protection and benefit, and they have the right to alter, reform, or abolish the same, whenever they may deem it necessary; and no special privileges or immunities shall ever be granted, that may not be altered, revoked, or repealed by the General Assembly.

Sec. 3. The people have the right to assemble together, in a peaceable manner, to consult for their common good; to instruct their Representatives; and to petition the General Assembly for the redress of grievances.

Sec. 4. The people have the right to bear arms for their defence and security; but standing armies in time of peace, are dangerous to liberty, and shall not be kept up; and the military shall be in strict subordination to the civil power.

Sec. 5. The right of trial by jury shall be inviolate.

Sec. 6. There shall be no slavery in this State; nor involuntary servitude, except for the punishment of crime.

Sec. 7. All men have a natural and undefeatable right to worship Almighty God according to the dictates of their own conscience. No person shall be compelled to attend, erect or support any place of worship, or maintain any form of worship, against his consent; and no preference shall be given, by law, to any religious society; nor shall any interference with the rights of conscience be permitted. No religious test shall be required, as a qualification for office, nor shall any person be incompetent to be a witness on account of his religious belief; but nothing herein shall be construed to dispense with oaths and affirmations. Religion, morality, and knowledge, however, being essential to good government, it shall be the duty of the General Assembly to pass suitable laws to protect every religious denomination in the peaceable enjoyment of its own mode of public worship, and to encourage schools and the means of instruction.

Sec. 8. The privilege of the writ of habeas corpus shall not be suspended, unless, in cases of rebellion or invasion, the public safety require it.

Sec. 9. All persons shall be bailable by sufficient sureties, except for capital offences where the proof is evident, or the presumption great. Excessive bail shall not be required; nor excessive fines imposed; nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Sec. 10. Except in cases of impeachment, and cases arising in the army and navy, or in the militia when in actual service, in time of war or public danger, and in cases of piracy, and other inferior offences, no person shall be held to answer for a capital, or other infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a grand jury. In no case shall a person be held to answer for a capital, or other infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a grand jury.

Sec. 11. Every citizen may freely speak, write, and publish his sentiments on all subjects, being responsible for the abuse of the right; and no law shall be passed to restrain or abridge the liberty of speech, or of the press. In all criminal prosecutions for libel, the truth may be given in evidence to the jury, and if it shall appear to the jury, that the matter charged as libelous is true, and was published with good motives, and for justifiable ends, the party shall be acquitted.

Sec. 12. No person shall be transported out of the State, for any offence committed within the same; and no conviction shall work corruption of blood, or forfeiture of estate.

Sec. 13. No soldier shall, in time of peace, be quartered in any house, without the consent of the owner; nor, in time of war, except in the manner prescribed by law.

Sec. 14. The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and possessions, against unreasonable searches and seizures shall not be violated; and no warrant shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, particularly describing the place to be searched, and the person and things to be seized.

Sec. 15. No person shall be imprisoned for debt in any civil action, on mesne or final process, unless in cases of fraud.

Sec. 16. All courts shall be open, and every person, for an injury done him in his land, goods, person, or reputation, shall have remedy by due course of law; and justice administered without denial or delay.

Sec. 17. No hereditary emoluments, honors, or privileges, shall ever be granted or conferred by this State.

Sec. 18. No power of suspending laws shall ever be exercised, except by the General Assembly.

Sec. 19. Private property shall ever be held inviolate, but subservient to the public welfare. When taken in time of war, or other public exigency, imperatively requiring its immediate seizure for the purpose of making or repairing roads, which shall be open to the public without charge, a compensation

in all other cases, where private property shall be taken for public use, a compensation therefor shall first be made in money, or first secured by a deposit of money; and such compensation shall be assessed by a jury, without deduction for benefits to any property of the owner.

Sec. 20. This enumeration of rights shall not be construed to impair or deny others retained by the people; and all powers not herein delegated, remain with the people.

ARTICLE II. LEGISLATIVE.

SECTION 1. The Legislative power of this State shall be vested in a General Assembly, which shall consist of a Senate, and House of Representatives.

Sec. 2. Senators and Representatives shall be elected biennially, by the electors in the respective counties or districts, on the second Tuesday of October; their term of office shall commence on the first day of January next thereafter, and continue two years.

Sec. 3. Senators and Representatives shall have resided in their respective counties, or districts, one year next preceding their election, unless they shall have been absent on the public business of the United States, or of this State.

Sec. 4. No person holding office under the authority of the United States, or any lucrative office under the authority of this State, shall be eligible to, or have a seat in, the General Assembly; but this provision shall not extend to township officers, justices of the peace, notaries public, or officers of the militia.

Sec. 5. No person hereafter convicted of an embezzlement of the public funds, shall hold any office in this State; nor shall any person, holding public money for disbursement, or otherwise, have a seat in the General Assembly, until he shall have accounted for, and paid such money into the treasury.

Sec. 6. Each House shall be the judge of the election, returns, and qualifications of its own members; a majority of all the members elected to each House, shall be a quorum to do business; but, a lesser number may adjourn from day to day, and compel the attendance of absent members, in such manner, and under such penalties, as shall be prescribed by law.

Sec. 7. The mode of organizing the House of Representatives, at the commencement of each regular session, shall be prescribed by law.

Sec. 8. Each House, except as otherwise provided in this constitution, shall choose its own officers, may determine its own rules of proceeding, punish its members for disorderly conduct; and, with the concurrence of two-thirds, expel a member, but not the second time for the same cause; and shall have all other powers, necessary to provide for its safety, and the undisturbed transaction of its business.

Sec. 9. Each House shall keep a correct journal of its proceedings, which shall be published. At the desire of any two members, the yeas and nays shall be entered upon the journal; and, on the passage of every bill, in either House, the vote shall be taken by yeas and nays, and entered upon the journal; and no law shall be passed, in either House, without the concurrence of a majority of all the members elected thereto.

Sec. 10. Any member of either House shall have the right to protest against any act, or resolution thereof; and such protest, and the reasons therefor, shall without alteration, commitment, or delay, be entered upon the journal.

Sec. 11. All vacancies which may happen in either House, shall, for the unexpired term, be filled by election, as shall be directed by law.

Sec. 12. Senators and Representatives, during the session of the General Assembly, and in going to, and returning from the same, shall be privileged from arrest, in all cases, except treason, felony, or breach of the peace; and for any speech, or debate, in either House, they shall not be questioned elsewhere.

Sec. 13. The proceedings of both Houses shall be public, except in cases which, in the opinion of two-thirds of those present, require secrecy.

Sec. 14. Neither House shall, without the consent of the other, adjourn for more than two days, Sundays excluded; nor, in any other place than that, in which the two Houses shall be in session.

Sec. 15. Bills may originate in either House; but may be altered, amended, or rejected in the other.

Sec. 16. Every bill shall be fully and distinctly read, on three different days, unless, in case of urgency, three-fourths of the House, in which it shall be pending, shall dispense with this rule. No bill shall contain more than one subject, which shall be clearly expressed in its title; and no law shall be revived or amended, unless the new act contain the entire act revived, or the section or sections amended; and the section, or sections, so amended, shall be re-passed.

Sec. 17. The presiding officer of each House shall sign, publicly in the presence of the House over which he presides, while the same is in session, and capable of transacting business, all bills and joint resolutions passed by the General Assembly.

Sec. 18. The style of the laws of this State shall be, "Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio."

Sec. 19. No Senator or Representative shall, during the term for which he shall have been elected, or for one year thereafter, be appointed to any civil office under this State, which shall have been created or the emoluments of which, shall have been increased, during the term, for which he shall have been elected.

Sec. 20. The General Assembly, in cases not provided for in this constitution, shall fix the term of office and the compensation of all officers; but no change therein shall affect the salary of any officer during his existing term, unless the office be abolished.

Sec. 21. The General Assembly shall determine, by law, before what authority, and in what manner, the trial of contested

Sec. 22. No money shall be drawn from the treasury, except in pursuance of a specific appropriation, made by law; and no appropriation shall be made for a longer period than two years.

Sec. 23. The House of Representatives shall have the sole power of impeachment; but a majority of the members elected must concur therein. Impeachments shall be tried by the Senate; and the Senators, when sitting for that purpose, shall be upon oath or affirmation to do justice according to law and evidence. No person shall be convicted, without the concurrence of two-thirds of the Senators.

Sec. 24. The Governor, Judges, and all State officers, may be impeached for any misdemeanor in office; but judgment shall not extend further than removal from office, and disqualification to hold any office, under the authority of this State. The party impeached, whether convicted or not, shall be liable to indictment, trial, and judgment, according to law.

Sec. 25. All regular sessions of the General Assembly shall commence on the first Monday of January, biennially. The first session, under this constitution, shall commence on the first Monday of January, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-two.

Sec. 26. All laws of a general nature, shall have a uniform operation throughout the State; nor shall any act, except such as relates to public schools, be passed, to take effect upon the approval of any other authority than the General Assembly, except, as otherwise provided in this constitution.

Sec. 27. The election and appointment of all officers, and the filling of all vacancies, not otherwise provided for by this constitution, or of the Constitution of the United States, shall be made in such manner as may be directed by law; but no appointing power shall be exercised by the General Assembly, except as prescribed in this constitution, and in the election of United States Senators; and in these cases, the vote shall be taken "viva voce."

Sec. 28. The General Assembly shall have no power to pass retro-active laws, or laws impairing the obligation of contracts; but may, by general laws, authorize courts to carry into effect, upon such terms as shall be just and equitable, the manifest intention of parties, and officers, by curing omissions, defects, and errors, in instruments and proceedings, arising out of their want of conformity with the laws of this State.

Sec. 29. No extra-compensation shall be made to any officer, public agent, or contractor, after the service shall have been rendered, or the contract entered into; nor shall any money be paid, on any claim, the subject matter of which shall not have been provided for by pre-existing law, unless such compensation, or claim, be allowed by two-thirds of the members elected to each branch of the General Assembly.

Sec. 30. No new county shall contain less than four hundred square miles of territory, nor shall any county be reduced by less than that amount; and all laws creating new counties, changing county lines, or removing county seats, shall, before taking effect, be submitted to the electors of the several counties to be affected thereby, at the next general election after the passage thereof, and be adopted by a majority of all the electors voting at such election, in each of the proposed divisions, shall approve of the proposed divisions; but no town or city within the same, shall be divided, nor shall either of the divisions contain less than twenty thousand inhabitants.

Sec. 31. The members and officers of the General Assembly shall receive a fixed compensation, to be prescribed by law, and no other allowance or perquisites, either in the payment of postage or otherwise, and no change in their compensation shall take effect during their term of office.

Sec. 32. The General Assembly shall grant no divorce, nor, exercise any judicial power, not herein expressly conferred.

ARTICLE III. EXECUTIVE.

SECTION 1. The Executive Department shall consist of a Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Auditor, Treasurer, and an Attorney General, who shall be chosen by the electors of the State, on the second Tuesday of October, and at the places of voting for members of the General Assembly.

Sec. 2. The Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Treasurer, and Attorney General shall hold their offices for two years; and the Auditor for four years. Their terms of office shall commence on the second Monday of January next after their election, and continue until their successors are elected and qualified.

Sec. 3. The returns of every election for the officers named in the foregoing section, shall be sealed up and transmitted to the seat of government, by the returning officers, directed to the President of the Senate, who, during the first week of the session, shall open and publish them, and declare the result, in the presence of a majority of the members of each House of the General Assembly. The person having the highest number of votes shall be declared duly elected; but if any two or more shall be highest, and equal in votes, for the same office, one of them shall be chosen by the joint vote of both Houses.

Sec. 4. Should there be no session of the General Assembly in January next after an election for any of the officers aforesaid, the returns of such election shall be made to the Secretary of State, and opened, and the result declared by the Governor, in such manner as may be provided by law.

Sec. 5. The supreme executive power of this State shall be vested in the Governor.

Sec. 6. He may require information, in writing, from the officers in the executive department, upon any subject relating to the duties of their respective offices; and shall see that the laws are faithfully executed.

Sec. 7. He shall communicate at every session, by message, to the General Assembly, the condition of the State, and recommend

Sec. 8. He may, on extraordinary occasions, convene the General Assembly by proclamation, and shall state to both Houses, when assembled, the purpose for which they have been convened.

Sec. 9. In case of disagreement between the two Houses, in respect to the time of adjournment, he shall have power to adjourn the General Assembly to such time as he may think proper, but not beyond the regular meetings thereof.

Sec. 10. He shall be commander-in-chief of the military and naval forces of the State, except when they shall be called into the service of the United States.

Sec. 11. He shall have power, after conviction, to grant reprieves, commutations and pardons, for all crimes and offences, except treason and cases of impeachment, upon such conditions as he may think proper; subject, however, to such regulations, as to the manner of applying for pardons, as may be prescribed by law. Upon conviction for treason, he may suspend the execution of the sentence, and report the case to the General Assembly, at its next meeting, when the General Assembly shall either pardon, commute the sentence, direct to execution, or grant a further reprieve. He shall communicate to the General Assembly, at every regular session, each case of reprieve, commutation, or pardon granted, stating the name and crime of the convict, the sentence, its date, and the date of the commutation, pardon, or reprieve, with his reasons therefor.

Sec. 12. There shall be a seal of this State, which shall be kept by the Governor, and used by him officially; and shall be called "The Great Seal of the State of Ohio."

Sec. 13. All grants and commissions shall be issued in the name, and by the authority, of the State of Ohio; sealed with the Great Seal; signed by the Governor, and countersigned by the Secretary of State.

Sec. 14. No member of Congress, or other person holding office under the authority of this State, or of the United States, shall execute the office of Governor, except as herein provided.

Sec. 15. In case of the death, impeachment, resignation, removal, or other disability of the Governor, the powers and duties of the office, for the residue of the term, or until he shall be acquitted, or the disability removed, shall devolve upon the Lieutenant Governor.

Sec. 16. The Lieutenant Governor shall be President of the Senate, but shall vote only in case the Senate is equally divided; and in case of his absence, or impeachment, or when he shall exercise the office of Governor, the Senate shall choose a President pro tempore.

Sec. 17. If the Lieutenant Governor, while executing the office of Governor, shall be impeached, displaced, resign or die, or otherwise become incapable of performing the duties of the office, the President of the Senate shall act as Governor, until the vacancy is filled, or the disability removed; and if the President of the Senate, for any of the above causes, shall be rendered incapable of performing the duties pertaining to the office of Governor, the same shall devolve upon the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Sec. 18. Should the office of Auditor, Treasurer, Secretary, or Attorney General, become vacant, for any of the causes specified in the fifteenth section of this article, the Governor shall fill the vacancy until the disability is removed, or a successor elected and qualified. Every such vacancy shall be filled by election, at the first general election that occurs more than thirty days after it shall have happened; and the person chosen shall hold the office for the full term fixed in the second section of this article.

Sec. 19. The officers mentioned in this article shall, at stated times, receive, for their services, a compensation to be established by law, which shall neither be increased or diminished during the period for which they shall have been elected.

Sec. 20. The officers of the executive department, and of the public State Institutions, shall, at least five days preceding each regular session of the General Assembly, severally report to the Governor, who shall transmit such reports, with his message, to the General Assembly.

ARTICLE IV. JUDICIAL.

SECTION 1. The judicial power of the State shall be vested in a supreme court, in district courts, courts of common pleas, courts of probate, justices of the peace, and in such other courts, inferior to the supreme court, in one or more counties, as the General Assembly, may, from time to time establish.

Sec. 2. The supreme court shall consist of five Judges, a majority of whom shall be necessary to form a quorum, or to pronounce a decision. It shall have original jurisdiction in quo warranto, mandamus, habeas corpus, and procedendo, and such appellate jurisdiction as may be provided by law. It shall hold at least one term in each year, at the seat of government, or elsewhere, as may be provided by law. The Judges of the supreme court shall be elected, by the electors of the State at large.

Sec. 3. The State shall be divided into nine common pleas districts, of which the county of Hamilton shall constitute one of compact territory, and bounded by county lines; and each of said districts consisting of three or more counties, shall be subdivided into three parts of compact territory, bounded by county lines, and as nearly equal in population as practicable; in each of which, one Judge of the court of common pleas for said district, and residing therein, shall be elected by the electors of said subdivision. Courts of common pleas shall be held, by one or more of these Judges, in every county in the district, as often as may be provided by law; and more than one court, or sitting thereof, may be held at the same time in each district.

Sec. 4. The jurisdiction of the court of common pleas, and of the Judges thereof, shall be fixed by law.

Sec. 5. District courts shall be composed of the Judges of the court of common pleas of the respective districts, and one of the Judges of the supreme court, any three of

in each county therein, at least once in each year; but if it shall be found inexpedient to hold such court annually, in each county, of any district, the General Assembly may, for such district, provide that said court shall hold at least three annual sessions therein, in not less than three places: Provided, that the General Assembly may, by law authorize the Judges of each district to fix the times of holding the courts therein.

Sec. 6. The district court shall have like original jurisdiction with the supreme court, and such appellate jurisdiction as may be provided by law.

Sec. 7. There shall be established in each county a Probate court, which shall be a court of record, open at all times, and holden by one Judge, elected by the voters of the county, who shall hold his office for the term of three years, and shall receive such compensation, payable out of the county treasury, or by fees, or both, as shall be provided by law.

Sec. 8. The Probate court shall have jurisdiction in probate and testamentary matters, the appointment of administrators and guardians, the settlement of the accounts of executors and guardians, and such jurisdiction in habeas corpus, the issuing of marriage licenses, and for the sale of land by executors, administrators and guardians, and such other jurisdiction, in any county or counties, as may be provided by law.

Sec. 9. A competent number of justices of the peace shall be elected, by the electors, in each township in the several counties. Their term of office shall be three years, and their powers and duties shall be regulated by law.

Sec. 10. All judges, other than those provided for in this constitution, shall be elected by the electors of the judicial district for which they may be created, but not for a longer term of office than five years.

Sec. 11. The Judges of the Supreme court shall, immediately after the first election under this constitution, be classified by lot, so that one shall hold for the term of one year, one for two years, one for three years, one for four years, and one for five years; and at all subsequent elections, the term of each of said Judges shall be for five years.

Sec. 12. The Judges of the courts of common pleas shall, while in office, reside in the district for which they are elected; and their term of office shall be for five years.

Sec. 13. In case of the office of any Judge shall become vacant, before the expiration of the regular term for which he was elected, the vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the Governor, until a successor is elected and qualified; and such successor shall be elected for the unexpired term, at the first annual election that occurs more than thirty days after the vacancy shall have happened.

Sec. 14. The Judges of the supreme court, and of the court of common pleas, shall, at stated times, receive for their services, such compensation as may be provided by law, which shall not be diminished, or increased, during their term of office; but they shall receive no fees or perquisites, nor hold any other office of profit or trust under the authority of this State, or the United States. All votes for either of them, for any elective office, except a judicial office, under the authority of this State, given by the General Assembly, or the people, shall be void.

Sec. 15. The General Assembly may increase or diminish the number of the Judges of the supreme court, the number of the districts of the court of common pleas, the number of Judges in any district, change the district or the subdivisions thereof, or establish other courts, whenever two-thirds of the members elected to each House shall concur therein; but, no such change, addition, or diminution, shall vacate the office of any Judge.

Sec. 16. There shall be elected in each county, by the electors thereof, one clerk of the court of common pleas, who shall hold his office for the term of three years, and until his successor shall be elected and qualified. He shall by virtue of his office, be clerk of all other courts of record held therein; but the General Assembly may provide, by law, for the election of a clerk, with a like term of office, for each or any other of the courts of record, and may authorize the Judge of the Probate court to perform the duties of clerk for his court, under such regulations as may be directed by law. Clerks of Courts shall be removable for such cause, and in such manner, as shall be prescribed by law.

Sec. 17. Judges may be removed from office, by concurrent resolution of both Houses of the General Assembly, if two-thirds of the members, elected to each House, concur therein; but, no such removal shall be made except upon complaint the substance of which, shall be entered on the journal, nor, until the party charged shall have had notice thereof, and an opportunity to be heard.

Sec. 18. The several Judges of the supreme court, of the common pleas, and of the district courts, may be created, shall, respectively, have and exercise such power and jurisdiction, at chambers, or otherwise, as may be directed by law.

Sec. 19. The General Assembly may establish courts of Conciliation, and prescribe their powers and duties; but such courts shall not render final judgment, in any case, except upon submission, by the parties, of the matter in dispute, and their agreement to abide such judgment.

Sec. 20. The style of all process shall be, "The State of Ohio;" all prosecutions shall be carried on, in the name, and by the authority of the State of Ohio; and all indictments shall conclude, "against the peace and dignity of the State of Ohio."

ARTICLE V. RELUCTIVE FRANCHISE.

SECTION 1. Every white male citizen of the United States, of the age of twenty-one years, who shall have been a resident of the State one year next preceding the election, and of the county, township, or ward, in

which he shall have the qualifications of an elector, and be entitled to vote at all elections.

Sec. 2. All elections shall be by ballot.

Sec. 3. Electors, during their attendance at elections, and in going to, and returning therefrom, shall be privileged from arrest, in all cases, except treason, felony, and breach of the peace.

Sec. 4. The General Assembly shall have power to exclude from the privilege of voting or being eligible to office, any person convicted of bribery, perjury, or other infamous crime.

Sec. 5. No person in the Military, Naval, or Marine service of the United States, shall, by being stationed in any garrison, or military, or naval station, within the State, be considered a resident of this State.

Sec. 6. No idiot, or insane person shall be entitled to the privileges of an elector.

ARTICLE VI. EDUCATION.

SECTION 1. The principal of all funds, arising from the sale, or other disposition of lands, or other property, granted or entrusted to this State for educational and religious purposes, shall forever be preserved inviolate, and undiminished; and the income arising therefrom, shall be faithfully applied to the specific objects of the original grants, or appropriations.

Sec. 2. The General Assembly shall make such provisions, by taxation, or otherwise, as, with the income arising from the school trust fund, will secure a thorough and efficient system of common schools throughout the State; but no religious or other sect, or sects, shall ever have any exclusive right to, or control of, any part of the school funds of this State.

ARTICLE VII. PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

SECTION 1. Institutions for the benefit of the insane, blind, and deaf and dumb, shall always be fostered and supported by the State; and be subject to such regulations as may be prescribed by the General Assembly.

Sec. 2. The directors of the Penitentiary shall be appointed or elected in such a manner as the General Assembly may direct; and the trustees of the benevolent, and other State institutions, now elected by the General Assembly, and of such other State institutions as may be hereafter created, shall be appointed by the Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate; and, upon all nominations made by the Governor, the question shall be taken by yeas and nays, and entered upon the journals of the Senate.

Sec. 3. The Governor shall have power to fill all vacancies that may occur in the offices aforesaid, until the next session of the General Assembly, and, until a successor to his appointed shall be confirmed and qualified.

ARTICLE VIII. PUBLIC DEBT AND PUBLIC WORKS.

SECTION 1. The State may contract debts, to supply casual deficits or failures in revenues, or to meet aggregate amount of such debts, direct and contingent, whether contracted by virtue of one or more acts of the General Assembly, or at different periods of time, shall never exceed seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars; and the money and fifty thousand dollars; and the money arising from the creation of such debts, shall be applied to the purpose for which it was obtained, or to repay the debts so contracted, and to no other purpose whatever.

Sec. 2. In addition to the above limited power, the State may incur debt to repel invasion, suppress insurrection, defend the State in war, or in case of the state; but such debt, arising from the contracting of such debts, shall be applied to the purpose for which it was raised, or to repay such debts, and to no other purpose whatever; and all debts, incurred to redeem the present outstanding indebtedness of the state, shall be standing indebtedness of the state, shall be contracted as to be payable by the sinking fund hereinafter provided for, as the same shall accumulate.

Sec. 3. Except the debts above specified, in sections one and two of this article, no debt whatever shall hereafter be created, by or on behalf of this State.

Sec. 4. The credit of the State shall not, in any manner, be given or loaned to, or in aid of, any individual association or corporation whatever; nor shall the State ever hereafter become a joint owner, or stockholder, in any company or association, in this State, or elsewhere, formed for any purpose whatever.

Sec. 5. The State shall never assume the debts of any county, city, town, or township, or of any corporation whatever, unless such debt shall have been created to repel invasion, suppress insurrection, or defend the State in war.

Sec. 6. The General Assembly shall never authorize any county, city, town, or township, by vote of its citizens or otherwise, to become a stockholder in any joint stock company, corporation, or association, whatever; or to raise money for, or loan its credit to, or in aid of, any such company, corporation, or association.

Sec. 7. The faith of the State being pledged for the payment of its public debt, in order to provide therefor, there shall be created a sinking fund, which shall be sufficient to pay the accruing interest on such debt, and, annually, to reduce the principal thereof, by a sum not less than one hundred thousand dollars increased yearly, and each year, by compounding, at the rate of six per cent. per annum. The said sinking fund shall consist of the net annual income of the public works, and stocks owned by the state, of any other funds or resources that are, or may be, provided by law, and of such further sum, to be raised by taxation, as may be required for the purposes aforesaid.

Sec. 8. The Auditor of State, Secretary of State, and Attorney General, are hereby created a board of commissioners, to be styled, "The Commissioners of the Sinking Fund."

Sec. 9. The commissioners of the Sinking Fund shall, immediately preceding each regular session of the General Assembly, make an estimate of the probable amount of the fund, provided for in the seventh section of this article, from all sources except from taxation, and report the same, together with all their proceedings relative to said fund and the public debt, to the Governor, who shall transmit the same with his regular message, to the General Assembly, and the General Assembly shall make all necessary provision for raising and disbursing said sinking fund, in pursuance of the provisions of this article.

Sec. 10. It shall be the duty of the said Commissioners faithfully to apply said fund, together with all moneys that may be, by the General Assembly, appropriated to that object, to the payment of the interest, as it becomes due, and the redemption of the principal of the public debt of the State, excepting only, the school and trust funds held